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# Keeney Settlement

By G. W. Webster

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# Keeney Settlement

By G. W. Webster

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"He is a dreamer, let him pass;  
He reads the writing in the grass,  
His seeing soul in rapture goes  
Beyond the beauty of the rose.  
He is a dreamer, and doth know  
To sound the farthest depth of woe.  
His days are calm, majestic, free,  
He is a dreamer, let him be.  
He is a dreamer, lo, with thee  
His soul doth weep in sympathy,  
He is a dreamer and doth long  
To glad the world with happy song.  
He is a dreamer, in a breath  
He dreams of love, and life and death.  
O man, O woman, lad and lass,  
He is a dreamer, let him pass."

—LONDON SUN.

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"And while his harp responsive rung,  
'Twas thus the latest minstrel sung;"

—SCOTT

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Keeney Settlement, lying in two towns, Fabius and Cuyler, and in two counties, Onondga and Cortland, is a beautiful spot on the earth's surface. It is bounded on either side of the valley by a lofty range of hills, between which runs the Tioughnioga river. This river divides the valley into two parts, the east and the west, both of which being about equal in extent in territory.

Those who have lived in this valley were impressed by the high hills timber-covered and by the old river moving with sluggish pace toward the Susquehanna and the sea. They remember the old mill, many of them, north of the church and the willow road beyond. Recollection would fain hover around this now deserted spot, for the old mill, once the scene of so much activity and interest is no more, long since it disappeared under the wearing hand of time, leaving no relic by which its history could be traced. It teaches us the same lesson, though perhaps in a more humble manner, that Rome and Carthage teach us, namely that institutions, men and cities pass away with all things earthly.

The church is a landmark of the place and appeals to the memory of those who in the past worshiped within its sacred walls. From old ministers and new ministers, they listened to the same "Old, Old Story" of Him who was born in a manger and died upon a cross. These ministers seemed to feel that they were upon the "King's business" and that "it required haste". They were in earnest as they proclaimed the Word to dying men.

Meetings every night was the program during the winter months. The bell would ring with solemn sound and call the people together. The minister would preach perhaps on the deluge, perhaps on Sinai, perhaps on the judgment, or on the atonement. The subjects from night to night were well argued and appeals were made to church members who were supposed to be on the background; to backsliders and sinners. The invitations, exhortations and songs are indicated by these words:

"Almost persuaded, come, come today,  
Almost persuaded, turn not away;  
Jesus invites you here,  
Angels are lingering near;  
Prayers rise from hearts so dear,  
Oh, wanderer, come."

There were very devout men and women in the old valley at that time, and just before it; fathers and mothers in Israel; Abner Brown, who occupied the front pew and who always knelt in the public service when the pastor offered prayer; uncle Jim Andrews whose custom it was to give a stirring exhortation at the close of the sermon. Daniel Porter who led the class, Perry H. Saunders and wife, John B. Webster and wife, Isaac C. Babcock and wife, Hon. Hiram Whitmarsh and wife, and Hon. H. P. Andrew and companion; G. W. Hurlbert who was always ready with a sermon, exhortation or prayer, and others worthy of honorable mention would space permit.

Worthy descendants of the saints are among the living, helping in the world's work and in the Master's vineyard. Among these can be mentioned Rev. Harlow Brown Andrews; for over thirty years he was a member of the firm in Syracuse, N. Y., of "Andrews Brothers," the leading grocery firm of the city. Having sold the business he, with his brother partner, James Milford Andrews, retired from active business. Harlow B. lives in his fine mansion on E. Genesee St. near the University M. E. Church.

Recently, he subscribed \$3,000 toward the erection of a new church to stand on the same site where the old one stood. He has always been a liberal contributor to every good work. Report says that he has given away thousands of dollars in aiding worthy causes, and no one doubts it. He is a very successful evangelist as those can testify who live in Central New York where he has labored most in the evangelical field.

He is strong in argument, powerful in appeal and earnest in manner, moving his audience as the grain field is moved by the wind. Hundreds, yes thousands, have been thus moved toward the Cross and a better life by the sincere and ardent words of brother Andrews. Could he have given his whole time to the work of evangelism, no doubt his success would have been on a larger scale and he would have stood per-

haps in the same rank with Talmage, Moody and Sunday. He is also the founder of the Rescue Mission of Syracuse which for more than thirty years has held a meeting every day in the year. The meetings are characterized by earnestness and zeal on the part of those who conduct them and those who take part in them. H. B. was the regular superintendent for many years and set the pace for others to follow. That they have never equaled their leader is perhaps no fault of their own, for they all did well and the best they could. William Cromwell, I think is the superintendent at the present time, and has been for a number of years. He is a fine singer and is popular with all. Drunkards, lost men and women, passing near the mission at night have their attention arrested by the sounds of prayer or sacred song. They stop and listen and words like these come floating to them:

"Tho' coming weak and vile  
Thou do'st my strength assure;  
Thou do'st my vileness fully cleanse,  
'Til spotless all and pure."

And words like the following:

"Throw out the life-line!  
Some one is drifting away;  
Throw out the life-line!  
Some one is sinking today."

During the summer months, Harlow B. lives at Keeney Settlement where he recently purchased the Isaac Babcock farm, the Edwin Saunders' residence, and the post office cottage.

These residences, and property connected with them in the possession of Mr. Andrews form a complete circle around the historic church of the valley.

In May, 1914, the sixtieth anniversary of this church was appropriately and impressively celebrated by the present and former inhabitants of the valley. The evangelical services were in charge of Rev. H. B. Andrews and he succeeded in bringing back the spirit-

ual atmosphere that prevailed the sanctuary when the fathers and mothers of those present grappled with the powers of darkness in great revival effort.

The hymns were recalled that were then sung:

"Vain man, thy fond pursuits forbear,  
Repent, thine end is nigh;  
Death at the farthest can't be far,  
Oh, think before thou die."

And the following:

"Sowing in the morning, sowing seeds of kindness,  
Sowing in the noontide, and the dewey evee;  
Waiting for the harvest, and the time of reaping,  
We shall come rejoicing, bringing in the sheaves."

The anniversary sermon Sunday May 3d, was by Rev. M. R. Webster, D. D., of Rochester, N. Y.

It was a great address according to the views expressed by those present. Recently, a man who has not attended church for the last five years, but who heard the address, said to the writer of this history, that if Dr. Webster preached in that church he would be there every Sunday to hear him.

At 8 p. m. the Rev. F. T. Keenney, D. D., pastor of the First M. E. Church of Syracuse, N. Y. gave a very able and eloquent address on the character and sterling virtues of the early settlers who came from Connecticut in 1796 to found homes in the then dense wilderness of that region. Rev. Howard I. Andrews of Penn Yan, N. Y., also contributed to the interest and pleasure of the hour by preaching a sermon appropriate to the occasion. The services closed with a banquet in which many took part. Dr. M. R. Webster gave an eloquent address; also Dr. F. T. Keeney and Rev. H. B. Andrews, G. W. Hurlbert, B. B. Andrews, Edwin Saunders, and Hon F. P. Saunders made appropriate remarks. It was a "feast of reason and flow of soul." All spoke with much emotion of the past and feelingly eulogized the noble men and women from whom they had descended.

From a document before me I read: "Among the products of this little rural community have been doctors, lawyers, legislators, judges, business men and some twelve or thirteen ministers."

These ministers all heard the command, "Go ye unto all the world and preach the gospel to every creature," and were comforted by the promise which supplemented it, "Lo I am with you always even unto the end of the world."

They went forth, some to the north, some to the south, some to the east, and some to the west, and preached the everlasting gospel of good news, of repentance toward God and faith in our Lord Jesus Christ;" preached grace, and proclaimed faith to a godless and unbelieving generation; preached pardon, peace and joy; pardon to the guilty rebel; peace to those who should believe, and joy to those who should possess the pearl of greatest price.

James Milford Andrews has purchased a large stock farm, we are told, at Warners, N. Y., where he now resides, near the bustling city where his most active years were spent. His farm is situated in a very pleasant part of the country, an ideal place for a city business man and philosopher to enjoy life and nature. It may be true of the cultivated and thoughtful business man, as well as the poet, in the language of Longfellow:

"For him the ploughing of those fields,  
A more ethereal harvest yields  
Than sheaves of grain;  
Songs flush with purple bloom the rye;  
The plover's call, the curlew's cry,  
Sing in his brain."

Marion F. Andrews is somewhere in the western country, just what part the writer cannot state at the present time. The boundless west is a fine country in which to develop manhood as well as to grow wheat and corn. It stretches away till it reaches the

Golden Gate. Reports from people who live in that region claim great things for it.

Mrs. Rev. Curtis E. Mogg, sister of the Andrews brothers, labored in the west with her talented husband as in the vineyard of the Master.

Dr. Mogg made a fine ministerial record in various localities and has earnestly and eloquently preached the "acceptable year of the Lord."

Mrs. Fisher, sister of Mrs. Mogg, lives in Syracuse, N. Y. Her husband is one of the leading business men of the city.

Mrs. H. P. Andrews lives in Syracuse, N. Y., as does her daughter Mildred. They live near the University in a residential district where the view of the city is fine. Mrs. Marsden, another daughter is living we are informed, in Philadelphia, Pa. Mrs. Rev. H. E. Woolever, with her husband, lives in New York. Dr. Woolever was formerly the popular editor of the Northern Christian Advocate, Syracuse, N. Y., and is now the assistant editor of the Christian Advocate, New York. The field of journalism stretches before him, and no doubt he will cultivate it with greater and greater success as the years roll by.

Rev. Howard I. Andrews is a prominent member of the Central New York conference and is filling important pastorates in the territory of the Conference. He is the youngest of the ministers who started from the Settlement to preach the gospel, the last but not the least. He is measuring up to the apostolic conception of a minister of Christ.

Mrs. George Loomis is in Syracuse. Her husband belongs to the grocery firm of Andrews, Loomis & Andrews, one of the largest in the city.

Burnett B. Andrews has a large stock farm at Weedsport, N. Y., where his time is fully taken up with the duties connected with his large and lucrative business. Mrs. W. W. Keeney, a sister, resides with

her husband on the old homestead. Mr. Keeney owns the Alonzo Keeney farm, the Jerome Woodruff farm, and the one on which he lives. This makes him one of the largest land owners in that part of the country. Mr. and Mrs. Keeney are members of the M. E. church of the place to which they contribute valued and much appreciated support. They are worthy descendants and successors of the sterling citizens that have preceded them in that locality.

Mr. and Mrs. James Andrews are in Syracuse, where they have lived for more than a quarter of a century. Mr. Andrews belongs to the grocery firm of "Andrews, Loomis & Andrews." He lived at the Settlement in his early manhood. He married Miss Mary Keeney, the daughter of Alonzo Keeney and then went to Syracuse where they have since resided.

George A. Keeney attended school at Keeney Settlement when he was a small boy. He was genteel and friendly even at that early age.

Later he married a daughter of the Hon. Orel Pope of Fabius. He is now with the "Tide Water Oil Company," manager of the Sales Department Rooms, 11 Broadway, New York. Report says that George is rich. We remember him with pleasure, and no doubt his early associates would be pleased to see him and take him by the hand in cordial salutation. Howard W. Keeney, his brother, resides nearer the old home. He owns the old Benjamin Brown farm near Cuyler. He lives on the farm and oversees the cultivation of its broad and fertile acres. Howard owns a fine car but he does not need it when he goes to Cuyler village as it is but a short walk to town.

J. W. Dutton lives in or near Cuyler also, I am told. His father finally became one of the old residents of Keeney and is still remembered with pleasure by those who knew him. J. W. no doubt will perpetuate the name of Dutton in the locality in which he lives to the general satisfaction of its inhabitants.

Arthur Brown, son of Wesley whom, no doubt, all will remember is on his father's farm, the father having passed on before him. Years before this Silas Haskins owned the farm, "Uncle Silas" as he was called.

Jesse B. Whitmarsh still lives in the Valley. It is said he has sold his farm, the old homestead to his son Frank, but lives near in another house. He is a substantial prop to the church and does much in every way for its support. He has been Sunday School Superintendent for many years, and I think is at the present time. He is a worthy successor of his father and is justly regarded as one of the prominent citizens of his home town. His worthy companion is also highly prized by all who know her.

Paul Whitmarsh, brother of Jesse, is in the West. Thus the good people get scattered up and down the world, and while one locality may suffer by this arrangement another may be the gainer. Mrs. Dr. Clark, sister and a widow, the last we heard, lives near New York, according to our latest information. Carrie was a favorite in her day around the Settlement, and is not forgotten by her former friends and associates.

Hon. F. P. Saunders has for many years lived in the city of Cortland in a large fine mansion on Clinton Ave. He is one of the foremost citizens of the county. He served in the state legislature for two or three years to the entire satisfaction of his constituents and people in general. He is a faithful member with his wife, of the First M. E. church of Cortland. Frank, as he is generally called by his friends and old schoolmates, is a genial personality and is well liked and highly esteemed by those who know him. He is a pleasant and generous host, agreeable to callers whether rich or poor, learned or unlearned. He evidently believes in courtesy as one of the valuable assets of life. I am sure he is worthy of emulation in this regard as well as in other things. He seems to have had a purpose in life and has

made steady progress toward the goal which has ever shone and glittered before him.

William F. Saunders resides in Syracuse N. Y., and has done so for many years. He is one of the substantial business men of the city and has been successfully engaged in many paying enterprises. We recently received a letter from him and at the top of the sheet we read these words:

"W. F. SAUNDERS & SONS, INC.,  
Livery, Coach and Sale Stables, Contractors and Dealers  
in Concrete Building Blocks, Sand and Gravel.  
Office, 329 West Onondaga Street."

Thus, it will be seen that W. F. is a man of affairs, a business man. He was also at one time alderman of his ward and thus became well and favorably known throughout the city. Genial and friendly, he is sure to extend his hand to his friends for a shake of the old fashioned kind. He remembers his schoolmates and is always glad to see them and talk over old times.

Long may he survive the busy years, the ups and downs of life, and round out a happy and successful career.

Frederick J. Saunders lives in Cortland and is engaged in the cattle business. He is the youngest of the family and is perhaps not so well remembered as older members of this justly celebrated group of brothers and sisters. Formerly, he owned a farm Truxton way, if I am not mistaken, but sold it and moved to his present location. Lucea (Mrs. Loughlin) resides in the distant west, and is the only surviving sister. Though far away from the scenes of her childhood, she is not forgotten by the early circle in which she moved and shone in the past. Edwin, the oldest of the family, still survives at an advanced age. He has lived in the old Valley longer than any one else who now survives. He is a pillar in the church. The pastor is always sure of seeing him in his place.

He has rung the bell to call the people together for worship. He has tolled it for those who have passed away; for the infant and the aged, and many of them have passed on to the great beyond.

Mrs. Jessie E. Bogardus, formerly of the Settlement, and later of Iowa, now lives in Cortland city with her adopted daughter, Mrs. A. E. Bates. She left the west a widow that she might live the balance of her life in the locality of her nativity. She likes the west; thinks it is a great country and left many warm friends there when she came east. Recently she revisited her former home in Iowa and did not stop until she traversed still farther west. She visited in California, and Mexico and other places. She visited her sister Abbie, Mrs. Holland Frost, Tower City, North Dakota. She has another sister Mrs. S. S. Browning, East Platka, Florida, and two brothers, George and Harry of Baltimore, Maryland. Margie, George, and Harry are pleasantly remembered around the Settlement, Syracuse, and Cortland.

Mrs. Rev. G. S. White lives in Orlando, Florida, a widow. She likes it there on account of the balmy climate and for other reasons, one of which is her health which is much better there than in the north.

Mrs. M. Z. Haskins resides at Binghamton, having left Homer immediately after the death of her mother who had attained to the age of one hundred years. She had cared for her aged parent many years and counted her service one of love and filial esteem, and sincerely mourned when the loving bonds that united them were severed.

John W. Babcock, a native of the Settlement, is a prosperous merchant in Cuyler, N. Y. He not only has many customers but many friends as well. At an early period in his career he was with "Andrews Brothers" of Syracuse but finally came back to his home town where he has since resided. For a number of years he was supervisor and served the people successfully in that capacity. He is highly regarded by

the Cuyler people and by all who know him. John has pleasant memories of the Settlement and speaks highly of its citizens, past and present.

Rev. M. R. Webster, D. D., is associate pastor of the First M. E. Church of Rochester, N. Y., where he owns a fine home. He has served many large churches during his ministerial career in the cities of the state. He was secretary of his conference a number of years, a delegate to several general conferences, District Superintendent for a decade or more, treasurer of the conference a number of times, and is now trustee of Lima Seminary, president of Silver Lake Assembly, and connected with church insurance, representing the same at annual conferences, president of the preachers' meeting, Rochester, N. Y., and author of the History and Genealogy of the Webster family, beginning the same with the Governor John Webster of Connecticut, in the year of our Lord, 1590.

dead

Rev. A. D. Webster, retired, lives in Oriskany Falls, N. Y. He served his country as a soldier in the late Civil War, and his church as pastor, District Superintendent, and delegate to its general conference. It was predicted that he would "make his mark" and he has done so in his chosen calling, as an ambassador of the Cross. He began his ministry in the Central New York Conference, and after a few years was transferred to the Northern New York Conference where he served many important pastorates, Potsdam, and Cherry Valley being among the last ones served. He reads widely in history and literature and takes a deep interest in passing political and current events.

Sumner H. Webster lives in Syracuse, N. Y., near his children, Mrs. Dorothy Webster Johnson, Miss Elizabeth, and Mary Webster. DeAlton, the only son, lives in Cortland. S. H., formerly lived in Keeney Settlement on the Fox farm, then at Truxton and Homer. He excelled as a tiller of the soil and was a general favorite with all whom he came in contact in daily and friendly intercourse.

Seymour C. Webster resides at the present time at East River, near his children, John B., Ceylon C., and M. S. Roy D. lives on the Cold Brook road and on the large Lemon farm. In two hours he can drive home and visit his parents which he and his family often do.

Hattie M. married Lewis H. Corning, and they also live at East River on the mail route R. F. D., No. 1, and on the Alta Vista farm which Mr. Corning owns. Mr. and Mrs. Corning formerly lived on the Brakle, four miles from Cincinnati; later moved to Cortland and then to East River. Mr. Corning has a fine herd of Holstein Fresian cattle, graded and purebred. He and his wife are members of the First M. E. Church of Cortland and are regular in attendance at its services.

Alice Woodruff married S. C. Webster; lived at Keeney Settlement for few years, and moved to Homer where they resided for a number of years. They took an active part in church and were regular attendants upon the means of grace, Mr. Webster was choister of the choir at one time, and later of the Sunday School. For many years he was a member of the official board. Recently he and his wife joined by letter the First M. E. Church of Cortland, it being nearer his present abode.

Madora Woodruff married George Sprague and they live in the West, Rio Grande Ave, Raton, New Mexico. Mr. Sprague is engaged we understand in the railroad business, and has been for some years. Although far from their early home in the East they have not forgotten it, for report says they intend re-visit it in the future, during the "flowery month of May or the leafy month of June." All will be glad to meet them again and greet them as they greet their most valued friends.

O. B. Andrews of Homer has retired from active business, having recently sold his large store. No doubt he has earned a rest as he was actively en-

gaged in business for many years. O. B. attended school at the Bardeen school house and at Keeney Settlement and is pleasantly remembered by all his early friends and schoolmates.

Fred D. Fox, now of Longmont, California is in the drug business; he was a resident of Keeney Settlement for a time and mingled with its citizens as one of them; as a preacher's son he had lived in many places but liked the old valley best of all. He longs to see his native place and breathe again his native air. We hope he may for we all liked Fred. Edmund Fox a cousin, lives somewhere in the North Country but no doubt, quite a distance his side of the North Pole. His present address is unknown to the writer. His mother, widow of the late Rev. R. C. Fox, lives at Onondaga Valley and we are told, still teaches a Sunday School Class in the local First M. E. Church of the place. "Aunt Mary" has always been celebrated as a teacher of young men on the different charges which her late husband has so acceptably served. We have met Ned at the residence of his mother quite frequently in the past; once at the golden weddug of his parents, and the last time at the obsequies of his beloved and lamented father.

Mrs. Sidney N. Gooding lives in Cortland, as does her sister Mrs. W. T. Blanchard. William Fosmer the only brother, lives near Chicago and has his business in that city. Mrs. Blanchard and Mrs. Gooding often speak of the good times they had attending the school at the Settlement when they were girls.

Albert L. Lee and his wife live near the church in the Settlement at the present time, although their home is in Fabius. Mr. Lee was with the Andrews Brothers at Syracuse for a number of years but finally came back as far as Fabius where he and his wife have since resided with the exception of the short time that they have been living again in the Settlement. Brother Lee and his wife are liked and appreciated wherever they live as they are church people, and active in church work.

Joseph D. Woodruff now resides and has for some years in San Diego, Southern California. We remember him as having been great in imitating and acting. He could talk Dutch we thought, better than a Dutchman, and Irish better than an Irishman. He was always a favorite at school exhibitions and was sure to keep the house in a roar. He used to sing "Johnny Smoker" and other comic pieces. He was also a good singer of sacred songs and sang in the church choir. J. D. served in the army, and came back after the war as a hero.

Mr. and Mrs. John J. Robbins live on Clinton Ave., Cortland. Will Robbins and wife, Ruth, also live near Cortland on a farm which Mr. Robbins owns. Amelia attended school at the Settlement when Jerome J. Woodruff, that prince of teachers, taught there. Later Mr. William Robbins attended the same school and then taught it. The school in those days was large, and many were the plays enged in by the boys and girls of "ye olden time."

Burdette R. Knapp of "River Dale Stock Farm," near East Homer, attended school at the Settlement one winter and was a general favorite with all.

Mrs. Henry W. Holl lives on the Uncle John Daniels farm, which Mr. Holl purchased some years since. They are church people and good citizens, appreciated for good principles and sincere piety.

Mrs. A. D. Haskins, widow, resides in the Settlement in the house once occupied for a few years by Rev. Wesley Fox and "Aunt Mercy."

Elisha King owned, a few years ago, the Orange Caldwell farm. But not long ago sold it and went West. Where he is at the present time could not be ascertained by the writer. Mr. King was a good neighbor, a good citizen, attended church and helped in the singing.

The Hon. B. F. Lee is at present in Syracuse educating his children at the University. B. F.

highly values a good education. A few years ago he was a member of the State Legislature and served the people well in that capacity. The people at Cuyler testify that he is a helper in the village church and liberal in the support of the Gospel and every good work. B. F. is something of a philosopher and it is always pleasant to converse with him and hear his views on various subjects as they come up for discussion.

George W. Lee was Supervisor of his town for a number of years and was popular in that capacity. He has been denominated "the veteran cattle dealer" of that part of the country. George owns a thousand or more acres of land, we are told, all of which he acquired himself by industry and frugality. George is genial and friendly everywhere and with everybody and therefore has many friends. This teaches us the lesson, sometimes hard to learn, that courtesy always pays and is always appreciated by all classes of people.

The Lee Brothers have surely done their part in putting Cuyler on the map. In early life both of them taught school; "taught the young idea how to shoot." We are glad to include them in this history, though they live a little south of the real Keeney Settlement territory.

Gurdin W. Hurlbert, preacher and exhorter, still lives. He lives at Tripoli and is active for a man of his age. He surveys the past with a placid eye. He can give us more of ancient lore than any other man in that locality. He could tell us much of "Uncle Brown;" the boyhood of Wesley and how he was the Sunday School superintendent in the old church which is beyond the memory of most of us. He could give us details of the boyhood of Alvin Brown, the 'Squire. He could tell us of Gurd Daniels, Fob Stocum, Bumpus of Fabius, Spicer, the peddler, who peddled spices, essences, extracts and so forth, and who always traveled on foot. He could give us pointers on Dr. Smedeley and his "fever powders;"

Uncle Oliver, who fixed clocks and who was an itinerant "fix-it" man. He could give much of the early history of the Bradt family; Matthais, Sarah, Lois and Jenny. He could describe the looks of Henry Bradt, brother of our old sexton, and tell us of the eloquence of Francis, another brother, who preached without a license and talked religion from house to house. Ah! those old characters have all passed away, and in a few years their memory will have perished; none will be left to tell the rising generation about them; no one to extol their virtues, no one to chant their praise. Brother Gurdin promoted many revivals in his day and saw many young ministers start out to preach the Gospel. He has watched their rise and progress with a friendly eye and has given praise where praise was due.

Morrison Hurlbert is living near Cuyler at an advanced age. He lived at the Settlement at one time and was in the employ of Mark Brown, when Mark owned the farm where Mr. Clark now lives. We remember Morrison as a friendly and genial man, a man to be relied upon in every spot and place; a man of honesty, probity and upright conduct.

Linda Hurlbert married a Mr. Burt of Lincklean, where they now reside on a large farm, if memory serves me correctly.

Anna is in Cortland. She seems to prefer city to country life, but Adelbert seems to prefer country life and is with W. W. Keeney and has been with him for the past five years.

Nellie, the wife of Jefferson Vincent, lives across the road from her uncle, G. W. Hurlbert, Tripoli. This gives Mr. and Mrs. Vincent the opportunity to see Gurdin often and minister cheer and comfort in numerous ways.

Mrs. Mercy Smith Kinney, with her husband, Ira, reside in the thriving village of Cuyler. Mrs. Kinney lived at one time in the Settlement in the family of F. S. Webster. Not long since Mr. Kinney sold his

farm and moved into town, where he and his wife are most comfortably situated. He was a soldier in the late Civil War and fought for his country under the Stars and Stripes and was thus associated with Lincoln, Grant and the "boys in blue" in a noble cause.

Mrs. B. W. French, a niece of the late F. S. Webster, lives in Norwalk, Ohio. She attended school at the Settlement and reluctantly left her early associates to go into a new country.

Guy B. Webster, a cousin, resides in Chicago, Ill. He is a merchant, I understand, and is doing well. Fred L. Webster, brother, is in Baltimore, Maryland, in the same line of business. Their father was John W. Webster, brother of Francis. John W. loved to fish and spent some of his vacations at the Settlement that he might indulge his favorite sport.

Millard Correy lived in the Settlement on his farm for a series of years, but finally sold it and removed to Cuyler, his former home. Millard is well known and well liked by the Settlement and Cuyler people.

E. Z. Clark is on the old F. S. Webster farm, which he purchased some years ago of J. B. Whitmarsh.

Frank Holl is on the old Deacon Eli Webster farm, which he purchased of the late F. S. Webster. Mr. Holl has been in the settlement for a long time now, and is one of the substantial citizens of the place. He married the sister of John J. Robbins, now of Cortland.

Seabury Brown lives in Cortland and is in business there. Seabury lived a little south of the Settlement Valley, and would naturally be claimed by Cuyler, but he was so well known and so well liked by the Settlement young people we concluded to give him mention in these pages.

Will Church and his sister, Lora, live Dryden way,

I am informed; no further information at this writing is obtainable.

Millard Davenport is on the Davenport farm. Mrs. Lena Davenport Wilcox lives elsewhere, but at this moment can not recollect the name of the place.

Mrs. Jessie Davenport Waters, with her husband, resides in Cuyler, according to the memory of our informant.

Mrs. Melva Wilmot White resides in Syracuse, N. Y. She married Prof. G. N. White and they have lived in Syracuse since their marriage, the professor teaching there during that time. The writer of these lines attended Cazenovia Seminary at the time the professor attended there. The acquaintance which was then begun has not been altogether neglected "in the midst of the years."

We shall be unable to give all the particulars of the Wilmot family; the father, Chauncey Wilmot, kept store for a time in the old postoffice building, next to the church, now in the possession of Rev. H. B. Andrews. By the way, the Rev. Wesley Fox kept store there, also, "upon a time," as the saying goes. People, young and old, gathered there to trade and get the mail. It was a social center, the only one that ever existed in that locality in our day.

Lovina Clark married a man by the name of Jipson, and Hattie, her sister, a man by the name of Potter—H. D. Potter. Rumor has it that Lovina, Mrs. Jipson, lives near Utica, and Mrs. Potter in the town of Truxton. The girls used to attend school in the Settlement and were well liked. Lovina taught school for a time before her marriage. H. D. Potter, husband of Hattie, is a local preacher, I believe, in the F. M. Church.

Homer D. Call, Syracuse, N. Y., active in the cause of labor and holding high office in labor organizations, and at one time State Treasurer, formerly resided in the town of Fabius and married into the

family of Perry H. Saunders, Keeney Settlement. He belonged to the Debating Club at the Settlement and took an active part in the debates. He is a natural orator and would have excelled in any calling where oratory is in demand. "Home," as his friends generally call him, is pleasantly remembered by those who knew him in other years.

Michael McGraw, now of Truxton, N. Y., attended school at the Bardeen school house and at Keeney Settlement. Mr. McGraw was an early and valued friend of Rev. A. D. Webster, Jerome J. Woodruff and George Saunders. He gained a reputation in his schooldays of being proficient in mathematics. There were but few who equalled him in that branch of learning. In after years, Mr. McGraw taught school and maintained his reputation as a scholar. The writer of these lines called upon him last autumn at his home and held a very pleasing conversation with him. Mr. McGraw inquired about the old friends and old schoolmates, one and all, showing that early associations had made a deep impression upon him.

No doubt this sentiment of home, school and neighborhood clings to most people till the end. It inheres in the human breast as a part of it and can not be eradicated, do what we will and go where we may. It is with us on the mountain top, in the mine, in foreign lands, or upon the rolling billow. The ties that hold us to early scenes, former friends and home life can be severed only by death. Burns, the poet, confirms this truth in his lines:

" Still o'er these scenes my memory wakes,  
And fondly broods with miser care;  
Time but the impression deeper makes,  
As streams their channels deeper wear."

Mrs. Alvin Stillman, daughter of Lyman Pierce, with her husband and two children, Lyman and Laurette, moved from the Settlement some fifty years ago to Wisconsin. Laurette married a Mr. Randolph and the last I knew was living in Janesville, Wis. Have no further knowledge of the family to offer.

Mrs. Randolph corresponded for a time with friends in the East, but years have passed away since she was last heard from.

Patrick Gleason lived on the western hill, back of the church. His mail came to the Keeney Settlement post office. His father, "Uncle Patsy," came after the mail often. Mr. Gleason, Jr., transacted much business with the Settlement people and affiliated with them more or less in social intercourse. The writer has heard Mr. Gleason speak very highly of Wesley Brown, Jerome J. Woodruff, Isaac Babcock, Daniel Porter, A. D. Webster and Wesley Fox. He regarded them as ideal citizens—men of exceptional honor and merit. He has spoken highly of the community as a whole and believed it to have been unsurpassed in those intellectual and moral qualities which enrich human nature, elevate human thought and ennoble human conduct. The hill-top on which he resided for so many years, commands a fine view of the valley below which, once seen, is never forgotten.

Thus glides my tale. But time and space forbids further enlargement. I must end this pleasant task; discontinue these recollections; recollections of the towering hills—the "delectable mountains;" of the silver stream swelling others streams in its course, and mixing with other tides, as it meanders toward the sea; of the grand inhabitants that once lived and wrought on that rural theater of action with the plow, the hoe, the axe, who milked the cows, sheared the sheep, chopped the wood, husked the corn, threshed the wheat, fixed the roads, made the turnpike, pitched the hay, dug the potatoes, sowed the grain, reaped the harvest, read the Bible and the Tribune, shunned the circus, burned the cards and partook only of the "cup that cheers but does not inebriate."

"The wind comes whispering to me of the country green and cool,  
Of redwing blackbirds chattering beside a reedy pool,

It brings me soothing fancies of the homestead on the hill,  
And I hear the thrushes' evening song and robin's trill,  
So I fell to thinking tenderly of those I used to know,  
Where sassafras and snakeroot and checkerberries grow."  
—Riley.

This is not a complete history or description of Keeney Settlement. It is but a fragment. The task of writing a complete account of that which has been, and now is, in the old valley, awaits some master genius who will be equal to the undertaking; some one who can more adequately paint the scenery of hill and dale; of rock and ravine; of rugged oak and fragile flower, of intersecting roads, and widening plain, of the soaring hawk and circling crow, and the old river singing, as it goes, the requiem of other days, other scenes, other persons, other incidents and other events that form the nebulous, legendary, charming, haunting, golden background of the long ago — the vanished years.

Cortland, N. Y., R. D. No. 1, 1917.

[The 3d generation appears in these pages only incidentally]

Onondaga County Public Library  
Syracuse, New York



Keeney's of Keeney Settlement

Deacon Simon Simeon ( Keenay, (Richard, Richard, Alexander )  
Born in East Hartford, Conn. June 15, 1757 died in Fabius May 27,  
1809. He married Margaret Keeney thought to be a relative  
Born in East Hartford 1740 died in Fabius May 29, 1817

Children

1, Simon,	born Jan. 1766	mar. Polly Bates & d. in Fabius Sept. 27' 31
2, Margaret,	*	1756
3, Jeremiah,	*	d. in L. Hartford at age of 20
4, Thankful,	*	1770 m.(1) Jonathan Webster (2) Nathaniel Keeney
5, Lydia,	*	1779 m. Abel Webster Nov. 30, 1797 Myl '06

Polly Bates was born June 27, 1765 at Chatham, Mass. & d. June 4, 1843  
in Fabius. She married Deacon Simon Keeney

Children

1, Polly, b. June 27, 1786	
2, Jeremiah, b. Oct. 27, 1788.	d. Nov. 22, 1869
3, Simon	
4, Champion, b. July 7, 1794,	d. Oct. 14, 1884 mar. Esther F. (1) _____
5, Theodosia	
6, Abigail	
7, John, b. Oct. 16, 1796	d. July 1, 1878 in Fabius mar. Ann Cunnabel mar. (2) Sarah C. Rees
( 7 ) Ann Cunnabel b. Oct. 2, 1801, m. John Keeney & d. Aug. 31, 1861	
Children of John & Ann (Cunnabel) Keeney	
1, John Alonso, b. May 10, 1820, d. Dec. 21, 1898 in Fabius mar. Lois Whitmire, b. Mar. 22, 1819, d. Feb. 15, '98	
2, Hiram, b. Sept. 11, 1822, mar. Miranda Weston & went to Yates Co.	
3, Edwin, b. Aug. 6, 1824, mar. Louise Warner & d. in Ill.	
4, Ann Eliza, b. May 5, 1826, mar. Job Whitmire who was born in Truxton July 24, 1824. Lived in Keeney Settlement	
5, Henry, b. Jan. 28, 1828, d. Feb. 15, 1876 unmarried	
6, Mary, b. Jan. 26, 1831, d. 1832	
7, Wm. Frink, b. Mar. 7, 1833, mar. Cornelia F. Buell & went to Ill.	
8, Charlotte, b. May 16, 1835, mar. Harvey Hutchins & went to Buffalo	
9, Kelina, b. May 1, 1838, mar. Harvey Hutchins as 2d. wife	
10, Louisa, b. May 1, 1838, mar. Sumner L. Vail of Pompey	

Jerusha Keeney dau. Alexander b. d. Mar. 13, 1825 in 88<sup>th</sup> yr.  
mar. Elisha Andrews, of East Glastonbury (Bolton) 1730-1813  
Their son Wm. Andrews went to Fabius. Their son Elijah went  
first to Vt. but died in Fabius. See Andrews Memorial

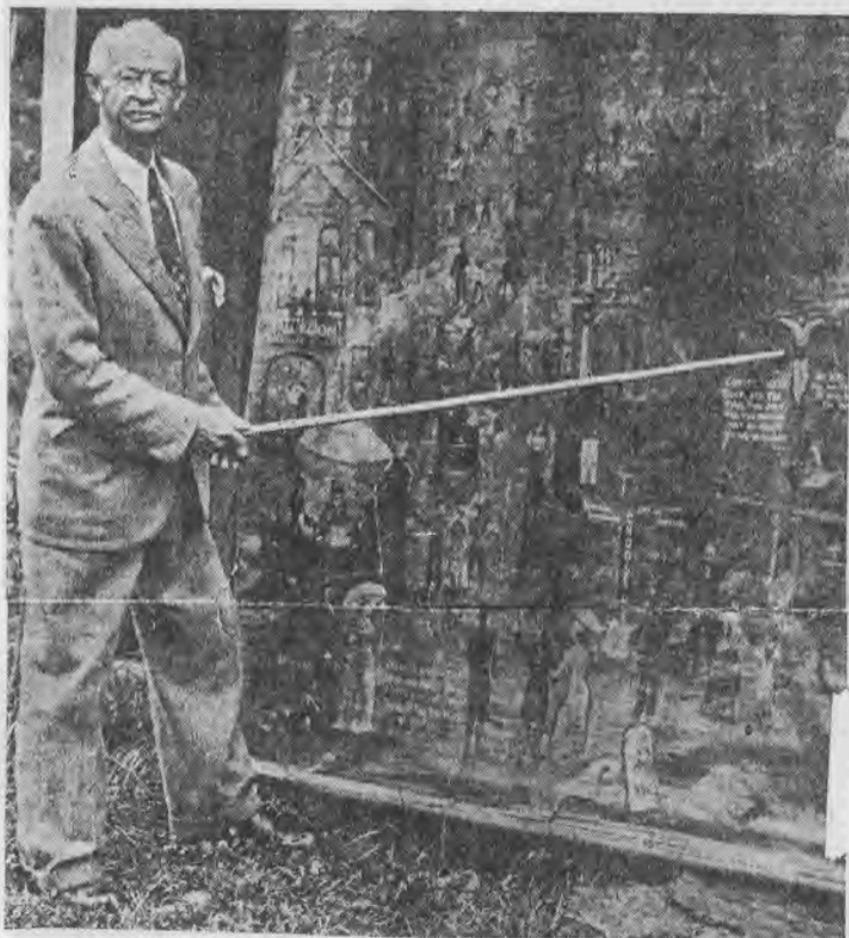
Seabury Keeney of Fabius b. mar. Sept. 30, 1856 Esther dau. James  
K. Andrews : onemento Tioga Co. page 513 Andrews Mem.  
L. Farneline Keeney of Fabius, marr. Henry G. Andrews son of James.

James Andrews of Syracuse of the grocery firm mar. Mary Keeney of  
Fabius, dau. of Alonso. G.W. & H.W. Keeney live in Fabius

J. D. M. Jr. 182

THE POST-STANDARD, SYRACUSE, N.

Map of "The Two Ways" Used in Early Mission Services



Harlow B. Andrews and old gospel mission map used at services

# Keeney's Settlement, Hamlet, Boasts Record of Giving 20 To Ministry and Missions

**Three Sons and Three Grandsons of Edmund Fox  
Methodist Preachers—Three Granddaughters  
Married Preachers**

"*Living Water, Jesus Christ*"

On a stone sign over an old well in Keeney's settlement, just south of Plattsburgh, these words have been painted in huge white letters by Harlow E. Andrews, 63-year-old former mission worker. These great-grandparents were pioneer settlers in this valley 100 years ago.

The words are symbolic of the religious fervor which since early days has characterized life in Keeney's settlement—birthplace of preachers, evangelists, and missionaries.

Mr. Andrews has a home in Syracuse, but he was born in Keeney's settlement, went to Sunday school with his brothers and sisters, and when still a young lad was "saved" at an old-fashioned camp meeting there. Nowadays, in the summertime, he lives in a farmhouse built by his forefathers.

With its clean white paint and its additions, the exterior of this farmhouse has acquired a modern aspect, but on the interior, wide, sturdy timbers and quaint low doors with latches in place of doorknobs bear witness to its age.

#### House Standing 100 Years

"It is all of 100 years old," Mr. Andrews said. "As near as we could, we

have left it as it was. The memories here are sacred and precious."

Sitting on his farmhouse porch, Mr. Andrews told of the many who have gone forth from this small valley to further the cause of the Gospel way and far.

"During my remembrance this settlement has produced a number of her sons and daughters some 30 or more to the ministry of the Gospel and missionary work," he declared. "Down the road a ways, there still stands a house out of which went six Methodist preachers and three Methodist preachers' wives.

"Uncle Edmund Fox lived there. He had three sons—Reuben, Wesley, and Warren—who became Methodist preachers, and their sister had a family in which there were three Methodist preachers. Then, Wesley Fox had three daughters who married Methodist preachers."

#### Several Prominent in Church

Among descendants of Keeney's settlement pioneers are several men prominent in the Methodist ministry today, three having occupied Syracuse pulpits as guest preachers within the past month.

The three, all relatives of Mr. Andrews, are: Rev. Howard L. Andrews, superintendent of the Syracuse-East

district of the Methodist Episcopal church; Rev. Dr. Harry E. Woolever of Washington, D. C., editor of The National Methodist Press; and Bishop Frederick T. Keeney of the Atlanta, Ga., area of the Methodist Episcopal church.

Pointing to a small bedroom in the back part of his farmhouse, Mr. Andrews remarked:

"In that room, Bishop Keeney was born."

Altho he entered the grocery business instead of the ministry, Mr. Andrews has proved himself a true son of Keeney's settlement by taking up mission work on the side. He cherishes colorful recollections of gospel wagon days in Syracuse.

#### Assisted Gibbud

Back in 1857, when Henry B. Gibbud of Florence Night mission in New York City came here to found the old Roscoe Mission, he discovered Mr. Andrews an interested and able assistant.

"I have seen hundreds, thousand of people converted," Mr. Andrews testifies. "In our gospel wagon used to travel about the country, holding services on street corners, hop fields, and at fair.

"One time we bought a canal boat that had been an old circus boat, so we fitted it up for what we call our Gospel boat. In this we took our services up and down the Oswego and Erie canals, horses drawing us along the waterway.

"Then we had a Gospel map that our workers used a good deal." He unrolled across a table an enormous dusty canvas on which Biblical scenes had been painted in oil. Near the top appeared the inscription "Map of the Two Ways."

"I had it painted from a little card I had," he commented. "It was helpful in illustrating Mr. Gibbud's sermons.

#### Old Pine Camp Grounds

"But mission work is changed today," Mr. Andrews sighed. "When I was a child, we used to go out in the woods and hire a plot of ground from a farmer. We would put straw all over the ground, and church members would come there with their individual tents."

"Behind our tent, I remember, we would set up an old stove that we had brought from home, and there mother cooked our food. We would go and stay for a week. There didn't anybody run a meeting by a watch in those days. People would drive in from miles around, and the place would be thronged like our county fairs."

"But we don't have those old camp meetings now."